

REMARKS

This patent application presently includes Claims 1-21, of which Claims 6-15 and 19-21 are allowed and Claims 1-5 and 16-18 stand rejected. Claim 1 is amended to define the applicant's invention more precisely, and all rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claims 1-5 and 16-18 were rejected as obvious over Hahn U.S. Patent No. 4,188,556 in view of Nozawa U.S. Patent No. 4,644,209. This rejection is respectfully traversed. Neither reference, nor the combination thereof renders these claims obvious.

On January 16, 2003, the undersigned held a personal interview with Examiner L, at which time the present amendment was proposed and arguments presented below were offered in favor of allowability. At the conclusion of the interview, the examiner agreed to enter the amendment and also agreed that it placed Claim 1 in condition for allowance. Claims 2-5 and 16-18 depend from Claim 1 and are believed to be allowable based upon their dependence from an allowable claim.

In making the obvious rejection, the examiner cited the Nozawa patent, asserting that it discloses providing a field producing assembly which provides fields in an axial and radial direction. However, Nozawa discloses nothing more than positioning a lap winding (i.e. overlapping windings) of the electrical member so as to receive a portion of the leakage field. In accordance with the present invention, the field producing member is provided with a portion that produces a substantially axial field and a portion that produces a substantially radial field, and both portions produce a field above a leakage level. As explained in the application, this produces unprecedented efficiencies and improvement in the operation of the motor. In amended claim 1, this feature is now recited explicitly. Accordingly, Claim 1 is believed to be allowable.